

Executive Order
05-1017

25 February 1965

Dear Tom:

I just read the transcript of the KHI-TV production on February 3rd, "9 on the Line," in which you discussed THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT with Wayne Thomas, Joe Dolan and others. I think your presentation of the "CIA case" was superb and also I agree with every word you said in criticism of THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT.

It will interest you to know that I was given a copy of the galley proof of the book and talked to both the publishers and the authors concerning the innumerable inaccuracies as well as the effect a book of this type would have on national security. The publishers were disinterested and claimed no responsibility. Mr. Ross and Mr. Wise came to see me, listened to my views and promised to communicate with me further. I have heard nothing from them since. I predicted to them that they would furnish the Communists as well as individuals whose friendship for the United States is questionable, i.e., Sukarno, Nkrumah, Nasser, etc., with a vast stockpile of material for critical speeches and editorials in their respective controlled press. This all has come about just as I forecast. However, the fact that the book was damaging to our national security, and the authors knew it in advance of its publication, had no effect on them.

For one reason, however, the book was less damaging than I expected. A number of thoughtful readers, including at least two newspaper chains who considered the book for a serial, concluded that the authors destroyed the very thesis of the book by their own argument. They opened up by identifying a committee which they properly called the 5412 Committee, on which sits the Director of Central Intelligence, the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of State and the Special Assistant to the President. This they contended was a monstrous, uncontrolled, secret action group within the Government itself. But as their argument proceeded, thoughtful readers could only conclude that this very Committee was established for the purpose of insuring and guaranteeing that the activities of CIA and Defense and State were fully coordinated and carefully controlled by the White House. Thus the powerful instrument they complained was both invisible and uncontrolled, was in effect a coordinating committee to accomplish just exactly the opposite result. I am told the newspapers turned the book down because of this fault in the authors thesis.

Again, Tom, I think you made an excellent presentation of the position of CIA and you courageously criticized THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT for the correct reasons. I know this is not an easy thing for a man to do in a public forum.

Give my love to Jean, and with warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

/s/
John A. McCone

✓
Mr. Thomas W. Braden
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JAM:mfb;mcm

- 1 - DCI Chrono
- 1 - DCI Alphabet
- ① - ER
- 1 - Mr. Chretien, w/basic